

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE MAY 18 PRESS BRIEFING

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT DAILY PRESS
BRIEFING OF MAY 18 FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

(SPOKESMAN)-- ANOTHER BIT OF INFORMATION ON AMBASSADOR
YOUNG'S PLANS:

HE WILL BE VISITING SOUTH AFRICA THIS WEEKEND --
CURRENTLY PLANNING TO FLY TO JOHANNESBURG ON SATURDAY, MAY
21 AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MAPUTO CONFERENCE. HE WILL BE
TRAVELING ABOARD A U.S. AIR FORCE PLANE AND WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS OFFICIAL PARTY AND PRESS CONTINGENT.

IN ANSWER TO OTHER QUESTIONS TAKEN ON THE SUBJECT,
REGARDING A MEETING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS, THERE
IS NOTHING CURRENTLY SCHEDULED. HE WILL BE MEETING WITH A
BUSINESSMEN'S GROUP SATURDAY EVENING AND ATTENDING A RECEPTION AT A U.S. EMBASSY FACILITY ON SUNDAY.

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I WAS ASKED LAST WEEK, HOW DO YOU JUSTIFY THE USE
OF A U.S. GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT AND THE PAYMENT OF OFFICIAL

PER DIEM FOR THIS PART OF THE TRIP, AND OUR ANSWER TO THAT
IS AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAS BEEN INVITED AND WILL BE GOING TO
SOUTH AFRICA AS THE US REPRESENTATIVE TO THE U.N., NOT

SIMPLY AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN. THE FACT THAT HE WILL BE ADDRESSING PRIVATE GROUPS RATHER THAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DOES NOT CHANGE THAT STATUS. THIS HAS LONG BEEN A COMMON PRACTICE BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND ABROAD AND IS CONSIDERED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO BE IN FURTHERANCE OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

A COUPLE OF MORE QUESTIONS I TOOK:

WILL HE BE RECEIVING A STIPEND FOR HIS SPEECH?

THE ANSWER IS "NO".

WILL A SECURITY ESCORT GO WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG?

THE ANSWER TO THAT IS "YES".

Q: YOU SAID THERE IS NOTHING CURRENTLY SCHEDULED CONCERNING MEETINGS WITH SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS.

A: YES.

Q: YET LATER ON YOU MADE A STATEMENT THAT, AT LEAST THE SENSE I GOT, THERE IS NO EXPECTATION OF ANY MEETING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS.

A: WE HAVE NO EXPECTATION. I WAS TALKING ABOUT THE SCHEDULING IN THE FIRST PART. THERE IS NOTHING CURRENTLY SCHEDULED.

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Q: YOU ARE NOT WORKING ON A MEETING WITH BOTHA OR VORSTER?

A: I HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THAT IS BEING WORKED ON. I THINK ANY ADDITIONS TO THE SCHEDULE OR CHANGES WILL HAVE TO BE MADE IN DUE COURSE.

Q: IS THAT BECAUSE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE NOT TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG? OR HE DOESN'T WANT TO MEET WITH THEM OR WHAT?

A: I HAVE NO IDEA.

Q: WELL, IT WOULD BE RARE FOR A U.N. AMBASSADOR OR ANY HIGH RANKING AMERICAN OFFICIAL TO GO TO ANOTHER COUNTRY

AND NOT MEET IN SOME WAY, SHAPE OR FORM WITH RANKING MEMBERS OF THAT GOVERNMENT, WOULDN'T IT?

A: I CAN'T HELP YOU ON THAT ONE.

Q: DID THE AMBASSADOR REQUEST ANY MEETINGS WITH SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS?

A: I THINK IN ANSWER TO THAT I WILL JUST HAVE TO STICK WITH WHAT I HAVE BEEN SAYING ALL ALONG, NAMELY THAT THERE ARE NO CURRENT PLANS, THERE ARE NO INTENTIONS TO.

Q: DID HE EVER HAVE ANY PLANS?

A: I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAS BEEN CONSIDERED.

Q: WAS THERE A HOPE THAT HE WOULD?

A: I AM JUST NOT PRIVY TO ALL THE POSSIBLE SCHEDULING UNCLASSIFIED

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CONSIDERATIONS THAT WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

Q: BUT THIS IS OF GREAT INTEREST TO US. COULD YOU NOT SEE IF YOU COULD GET SOME MORE INFORMATION ON THIS POINT?

A: LET ME SEE WHAT ELSE WE CAN GET ON THE SCHEDULE AS IT EMERGES.

Q: THE UNIVERSITY MEETING WAS APPLIED FOR AT THE SAME TIME AS THE BUSINESSMEN'S, BUT YOU HAVE NO WORD ON THAT?

A: ABOUT ALL I HAVE IS JUST WHAT I HAVE GIVEN YOU.

Q: YOU TOLD US HERE A WEEK OR SO AGO THAT HIS TRIP WAS A PRIVATE ONE AND NOW IT IS AN OFFICIAL ONE, AT LEAST AS FAR AS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED. WHEN AND WHY WAS IT CHANGED FROM PRIVATE TO OFFICIAL?

A: WELL, IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL STATE VISIT IN THE SENSE THAT MANY VISITS WE ARRANGE ARE. HE IS GOING THERE IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY, BUT OBVIOUSLY HE IS GOING AS THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE U.N. IN FURTHERANCE OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY.

Q: AMBASSADOR YOUNG IS REPORTED AS HAVING SAID IN MAPUTO THAT THE WORLD DOES NOT YET APPRECIATE HOW MUCH DIFFERENT THE UNITED STATES CAN BE NOT ONLY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA BUT ALSO IN THE MIDDLE EAST, VIETNAM, AND THEN IT TRAILS OFF SOMEWHERE, ACCORDING TO REPORTS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE

REST OF IT IS.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS?

A: NOTHING. I JUST SAW THE REPORT THAT YOU HAVE SEEN ON
HIS REMARKS.

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Q: ARE YOU GOING TO GET THE TEXT OF THESE REMARKS?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHETHER WE WILL HAVE A TEXT OF THAT OR
NOT. I WILL SEE.

Q: IS HE STILL GOING TO SUDAN AND OTHER PLACES?

A: AS FAR AS I KNOW, YES.

: ON MONDAY?

A: THERE MAY BE ADD-ONS TO THE TRIP. I HAVE NO FURTHER
SCHEDULING INFORMATION TO GIVE YOU. PERHAPS WE WILL
HAVE SOMETHING MORE TOMORROW.
CHRISTOPHER

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